Funds to States under MIS

4673. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has to settle huge amount of money incurred by Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other Southern States during procurement operations, under Market Intervention Schemes (MIS), since 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the details of amount pending with the Ministry since then, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the accounts received for the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) implemented since 1998-99 in Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka have been settled and the Central Government share of loss has also been reimbursed for the period under reference. No MIS has been implemented in other southern states.

Market-Oriented Research by I.A.R.I.

4674. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the major areas in agricultural sector where functional research is carried out by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute;

(b) whether the researches conducted by the I.A.R.I are market-oriented; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to give market-orientation to the institute's research work, to boost up the farm sector's export potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi is carrying out functional research in following areas of agricultural sector:

1. Crop Improvement
2. Crop Protection

3. Crop and Resource Management

4. Basic and Strategic Research

5. Social Sciences and Technology Transfer

6. Post-Graduate Education, Information system with a view to impart advance training in frontier areas for HRD.

(b) Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi is deeply involved in market oriented research. Consequently, a number of high yielding varieties/hybrids of wheat, rice, maize, sorghum, pearlmillet, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, soybean, field pea, chickpea, cowpea, pigeonpea, lentil, mungbean cotton, vegetables and flowers have been developed. Besides, I.A.R.I. is also developing new formulations of pesticides, biofertilizers and new prototypes of farm machinery and implements.I.A.R.I. has also developed a few agro-chemicals, which have been patented and licensed.

(c) I.A.R.I. is focusing its research programme beside crop varieties with export quality produce, on newer areas having export potential such as cut flowers (roses and gladiolus), fruits and value added indigenous fruit based products.

Criteria for KVKs

4675. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for sanctioning new Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(b) the names of districts, State-wise, in which KVKs have been set up, so far; and

(c) the names of districts, State-wise, in KVKs are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The criteria for sanctioning a new Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) are: (i) priority on backward and tribal districts; (ii) availability of about 50 acres of cultivated land, at the center of the district with basic amenities; and (iii) strong technical backstopping of the organisation.